

What is claimed is:

1. A draw frame for drafting a sliver running therethrough, comprising

(a) a drafting unit having a plurality of roll assemblies spaced from one another in a direction of sliver advance; one of said roll assemblies being an output roll assembly situated at a downstream end of said drafting unit as viewed in said direction of sliver advance;

(b) a sliver guide disposed downstream of said output roll assembly; said sliver guide having an inlet opening and an outlet opening;

(c) a sliver trumpet disposed downstream of said sliver guide; said sliver passing through said sliver guide and said sliver trumpet;

(d) an electronic camera arranged to capture images of the sliver at a location situated downstream of said output roll assembly and upstream of said sliver trumpet; and

(e) an electronic image evaluating unit connected to said camera for receiving image signals therefrom.

2. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said location is situated between said output roll assembly and said inlet opening of said sliver guide.

3. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said location is situated between said inlet and said outlet of said sliver guide.

4. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said location is situated between said output roll assembly and said inlet opening of said sliver trumpet.

5. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said location is situated between said output roll assembly and said inlet opening of said sliver guide; the sliver being unsupported between said output roll assembly and said inlet opening of said sliver guide.

6. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, further comprising an electronic machine control device connected to said electronic image evaluating unit.

7. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, further comprising means for moving said camera transversely to said direction of sliver advance.

8. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, further comprising an electronic machine control device connected to said electronic image evaluating unit; said electronic machine control device comprising a computer and a microprocessor.

9. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, further comprising an electronic machine control device connected to said electronic image evaluating unit; and a closed circuit including said electronic machine control device and said electronic image evaluating unit for utilizing results of image evaluation for optimizing a drafting process.

10. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said camera is a CCD-camera.

11. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said camera has a picture taking axis oriented perpendicularly to said direction of sliver advance.

12. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said camera is pivotal in a plane oriented perpendicularly to said direction of sliver advance.

13. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, further comprising sliver-illuminating light sources disposed on either side of the sliver at said location for capturing pictures with said camera in transmitted and reflected light.

14. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, further comprising an electronic machine control device connected to said electronic image evaluating unit; the control device including a memory for storing therein evaluated measuring results derived from images taken by said camera.

15. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said camera is a line camera.

16. The draw frame as defined in claim 1, wherein said camera is a diode matrix camera.